
SENATE BILL 5051

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Senators Weinstein, Oemig, Kauffman, Jacobsen, Shin and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 01/09/2007. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to scholar's designations on high school
2 transcripts; amending RCW 28A.655.061; and reenacting and amending RCW
3 28A.230.125.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.230.125 and 2006 c 263 s 401 and 2006 c 115 s 6
6 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

7 (1) The superintendent of public instruction, in consultation with
8 the higher education coordinating board, the state board for community
9 and technical colleges, and the work force training and education
10 coordinating board, shall develop for use by all public school
11 districts a standardized high school transcript. The superintendent
12 shall establish clear definitions for the terms "credits" and "hours"
13 so that school programs operating on the quarter, semester, or
14 trimester system can be compared.

15 (2) The standardized high school transcript shall include a
16 notation of whether the student has earned a certificate of individual
17 achievement or a certificate of academic achievement and all scholar
18 designations as provided in RCW 28A.655.061.

1 (3) Transcripts are important documents to students who will apply
2 for admission to postsecondary institutions of higher education.
3 Transcripts are also important to students who will seek employment
4 upon or prior to graduation from high school. It is recognized that
5 student transcripts may be the only record available to employers in
6 their decision-making processes regarding prospective employees. The
7 superintendent of public instruction shall require school districts to
8 inform annually all high school students that prospective employers may
9 request to see transcripts and that the prospective employee's decision
10 to release transcripts can be an important part of the process of
11 applying for employment.

12 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.655.061 and 2006 c 115 s 4 are each amended to
13 read as follows:

14 (1) The high school assessment system shall include but need not be
15 limited to the Washington assessment of student learning, opportunities
16 for a student to retake the content areas of the assessment in which
17 the student was not successful, and if approved by the legislature
18 pursuant to subsection (10) of this section, one or more objective
19 alternative assessments for a student to demonstrate achievement of
20 state academic standards. The objective alternative assessments for
21 each content area shall be comparable in rigor to the skills and
22 knowledge that the student must demonstrate on the Washington
23 assessment of student learning for each content area.

24 (2) Subject to the conditions in this section, a certificate of
25 academic achievement shall be obtained by most students at about the
26 age of sixteen, and is evidence that the students have successfully met
27 the state standard in the content areas included in the certificate.
28 With the exception of students satisfying the provisions of RCW
29 28A.155.045, acquisition of the certificate is required for graduation
30 from a public high school but is not the only requirement for
31 graduation.

32 (3) Beginning with the graduating class of 2008, with the exception
33 of students satisfying the provisions of RCW 28A.155.045, a student who
34 meets the state standards on the reading, writing, and mathematics
35 content areas of the high school Washington assessment of student
36 learning shall earn a certificate of academic achievement. If a
37 student does not successfully meet the state standards in one or more

1 content areas required for the certificate of academic achievement,
2 then the student may retake the assessment in the content area up to
3 four times at no cost to the student. If the student successfully
4 meets the state standards on a retake of the assessment then the
5 student shall earn a certificate of academic achievement. Once
6 objective alternative assessments are authorized pursuant to subsection
7 (10) of this section, a student may use the objective alternative
8 assessments to demonstrate that the student successfully meets the
9 state standards for that content area if the student has retaken the
10 Washington assessment of student learning at least once. If the
11 student successfully meets the state standards on the objective
12 alternative assessments then the student shall earn a certificate of
13 academic achievement.

14 (4) Beginning with the graduating class of 2010, a student must
15 meet the state standards in science in addition to the other content
16 areas required under subsection (3) of this section on the Washington
17 assessment of student learning or the objective alternative assessments
18 in order to earn a certificate of academic achievement.

19 (5) The state board of education may not require the acquisition of
20 the certificate of academic achievement for students in home-based
21 instruction under chapter 28A.200 RCW, for students enrolled in private
22 schools under chapter 28A.195 RCW, or for students satisfying the
23 provisions of RCW 28A.155.045.

24 (6) A student may retain and use the highest result from each
25 successfully completed content area of the high school assessment.

26 (7) Beginning in 2006, school districts must make available to
27 students the following options:

28 (a) To retake the Washington assessment of student learning up to
29 four times in the content areas in which the student did not meet the
30 state standards if the student is enrolled in a public school; or

31 (b) To retake the Washington assessment of student learning up to
32 four times in the content areas in which the student did not meet the
33 state standards if the student is enrolled in a high school completion
34 program at a community or technical college. The superintendent of
35 public instruction and the state board for community and technical
36 colleges shall jointly identify means by which students in these
37 programs can be assessed.

1 (8) Students who achieve the standard in a content area of the high
2 school assessment but who wish to improve their results shall pay for
3 retaking the assessment, using a uniform cost determined by the
4 superintendent of public instruction.

5 (9) Subject to available funding, the superintendent shall pilot
6 opportunities for retaking the high school assessment beginning in the
7 2004-05 school year. Beginning no later than September 2006,
8 opportunities to retake the assessment at least twice a year shall be
9 available to each school district.

10 (10)(a) The office of the superintendent of public instruction
11 shall develop options for implementing objective alternative
12 assessments, which may include an appeals process, for students to
13 demonstrate achievement of the state academic standards. The objective
14 alternative assessments shall be comparable in rigor to the skills and
15 knowledge that the student must demonstrate on the Washington
16 assessment of student learning and be objective in its determination of
17 student achievement of the state standards. Before any objective
18 alternative assessments in addition to those authorized in RCW
19 28A.655.065 or (b) of this subsection are used by a student to
20 demonstrate that the student has met the state standards in a content
21 area required to obtain a certificate, the legislature shall formally
22 approve the use of any objective alternative assessments through the
23 omnibus appropriations act or by statute or concurrent resolution.

24 (b) A student's score on the mathematics portion of the preliminary
25 scholastic assessment test (PSAT), the scholastic assessment test
26 (SAT), or the American college test (ACT) may be used as an objective
27 alternative assessment under this section for demonstrating that a
28 student has met or exceeded the mathematics standards for the
29 certificate of academic achievement. The state board of education
30 shall identify the scores students must achieve on the mathematics
31 portion of the PSAT, SAT, or ACT to meet or exceed the state standard
32 for mathematics. The state board of education shall identify the first
33 scores by December 1, 2006, and thereafter may increase but not
34 decrease the scores required for students to meet or exceed the state
35 standard for mathematics.

36 (11) By December 15, 2004, the house of representatives and senate
37 education committees shall obtain information and conclusions from
38 recognized, independent, national assessment experts regarding the

1 validity and reliability of the high school Washington assessment of
2 student learning for making individual student high school graduation
3 determinations.

4 (12) To help assure continued progress in academic achievement as
5 a foundation for high school graduation and to assure that students are
6 on track for high school graduation, each school district shall prepare
7 plans for students as provided in this subsection (12).

8 (a) Student learning plans are required for eighth through twelfth
9 grade students who were not successful on any or all of the content
10 areas of the Washington assessment for student learning during the
11 previous school year. The plan shall include the courses,
12 competencies, and other steps needed to be taken by the student to meet
13 state academic standards and stay on track for graduation. This
14 requirement shall be phased in as follows:

15 (i) Beginning no later than the 2004-05 school year ninth grade
16 students as described in this subsection (12)(a) shall have a plan.

17 (ii) Beginning no later than the 2005-06 school year and every year
18 thereafter eighth grade students as described in this subsection
19 (12)(a) shall have a plan.

20 (iii) The parent or guardian shall be notified, preferably through
21 a parent conference, of the student's results on the Washington
22 assessment of student learning, actions the school intends to take to
23 improve the student's skills in any content area in which the student
24 was unsuccessful, strategies to help them improve their student's
25 skills, and the content of the student's plan.

26 (iv) Progress made on the student plan shall be reported to the
27 student's parents or guardian at least annually and adjustments to the
28 plan made as necessary.

29 (b) Beginning with the 2005-06 school year and every year
30 thereafter, all fifth grade students who were not successful in one or
31 more of the content areas of the fourth grade Washington assessment of
32 student learning shall have a student learning plan.

33 (i) The parent or guardian of a student described in this
34 subsection (12)(b) shall be notified, preferably through a parent
35 conference, of the student's results on the Washington assessment of
36 student learning, actions the school intends to take to improve the
37 student's skills in any content area in which the student was

1 unsuccessful, and provide strategies to help them improve their
2 student's skills.

3 (ii) Progress made on the student plan shall be reported to the
4 student's parents or guardian at least annually and adjustments to the
5 plan made as necessary.

6 (13) Beginning with the graduating class of 2008, each student who
7 takes the assessment before completing tenth grade and who achieves
8 level four the first time the student takes that content area
9 assessment, shall receive a scholar's designation on his or her
10 transcript for each content area in which the student achieves level
11 four the first time the student takes that content area assessment.

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